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Agenda item 64 (a) and (b)

Indigenous issues

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Elena **Molaroni** (San Marino)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled: "Indigenous issues:

"(a) Indigenous issues;

"(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 18th, 19th and 48th meetings on 16 and 17 October and 17 November 2006. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/61/SR.18, 19 and 48).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/61/376);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/61/490).

4. At the 18th meeting, on 16 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement and responded to a query made by the representative of Cuba (see A/C.3/61/SR.18).

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5. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people made a presentation and engaged in a question-and-answer session with the representatives of Ecuador, Finland (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Norway and New Zealand (see A/C.3/61/SR.18).

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman

6. At its 48th meeting, on 17 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following documents (see para. 7):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/61/376);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/61/490).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

7. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with indigenous issues

The General Assembly decides to take note of following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations;[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.[2]

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[1] A/61/376.

[2] A/61/490.